

## A SPECIAL TEACHER - PROFESSOR ENG. IOSIF IONESCU-MUSCEL



*Iosif Ionescu Muscel*

*From the introduction of the "Personalia" column, there have already been evoked the personalities of several outstanding professors that acted along time within the Faculty of Commerce, at the Departments of Commerce, Science of Commodities and Quality Management, the International Economic Relations, as well as the department of Chemistry and Physics. Professor Eng. Iosif Ionescu- Muscel, the personality whom is dedicated the rubric in this edition, was a responsive master of writing. Referring to his birth, the 24<sup>th</sup> of December 1904, in Zigzag across the Memory, left into the manuscript, he would write: "The poor mother, instead of spending a*

*merry Christmas, she then created a natural fuss within the family, a reversed domesticity dominated by the satisfaction according to the belief that the night she had given birth to me coincided the night Jesus came to the world, making a fortunate event out of it." Short after the set up of the Science of Commodities Section, in 1953, he joined the professors' staff from the Department of Technology-Science of Commodities. In 1942, in Bucharest, he had published The Technique of Textile Ennobling, the first library book in Romanian in the textile area. Being considered founder of the modern textile education, he represented like no other the science of commodities to this distinct category of products. He coordinated doctoral theses and acted as the reviver of some large masses of universitarians, researchers and practicians. His ex colleagues reminisce about his person as being in such a way familiar with the practice that, during some experiments, the Professor would work at the Cotton Wool Factory of Buftea losing track of time while working at the conveyer belt together with the lady workers, in an extremely noxious environment. At administrative level, since 1946 he has been acting as a Rector of the School of Textile Higher Studies, then as a Dean of the Textile Faculty within Bucharest Institute of Polytechnics (1948-1952) and Chief of Department at the Iași Institute of Light Industry. In January 2005, following the anniversary of 100 years from his birth, he was awarded, post-mortem, the AGIR Diploma and Medal. The photographs and certain information have been generously offered to us by professor George Baci, Executive President of the foundation that bears the name of one of the Professor's brothers-a Ph.D. Prof. and Jurist too- who set up the Foundation "Petre Ionescu-Muscel" in Domnești, county of Argeș. Professor George Baci is also the Director of "Pietrele Doamnei"- the foundation's magazine of local culture. (Nicolae Lupu)*

In 1957, I became a student of the Institute of Economic Studies and Planning (today the Academy of Economic Studies) in Bucharest, as a scholar of the ex administrative region of Ploiești (that included the current counties Prahova, Buzău and Dâmbovița). At that time, the popular councils of the administrative regions and the economic units could bear the costs of the scholarizations of some teens', provided that, following their graduation, they function for five years in units located within the territorial area of the regions. This condition was valid until 1962, namely during the university studies of the first scholars promotion, afterwards the graduates being distributed to their future jobs according to the criteria included within the norms of the governmental distribution.

Under these circumstances, due to the outstanding professional results, I became a teacher at the Science of Commodities Department, one of the influent departments of the Faculty of Commerce, due to the quality of the professors thereof.

During the university studies, the promotion I took part in benefited from the didactic prestation of some exceptional professors. Among these, the one that impressed me through dignity, professional expertise, behavior, influencing my future activity was Professor Iosif Ionescu-Muscel, whose student, doctor's degree candidate and collaborator in the scientific research I was. He is the person that initiated and formed me into the research activity, under his guidance and together with whom I published my first article in one of the specialized magazines of 1964.

Consequently, there is a duty of honor for me to present the personality of Ph.D. Professor Eng. Iosif Ionescu-Muscel to my younger colleagues and current students, one of the master minds of the modern Science of Commodities Education, but also one of the main founders of the Romanian School of Textile Engineering.

Born on December 1904 in Domnești-Argeș commune (at that time a locality belonging to Muscel county), professor Iosif Ionescu-Muscel attended primary-school in his native commune, then the secondary courses at "Dinicu Golescu" High-school in Câmpulung Muscel and "Gheorghe Lazăr" High-school, as a scholar.

He sustained the Baccalaureate in 1925 and during 1926-1927 he benefited from a scholarship granted by "Creditul Minier" enterprise (that was holding the coal mines from Muscel county), in order to attend the post high-school courses at "Louis le Grand" High-school in Paris, training courses for the admission in the engineering education.

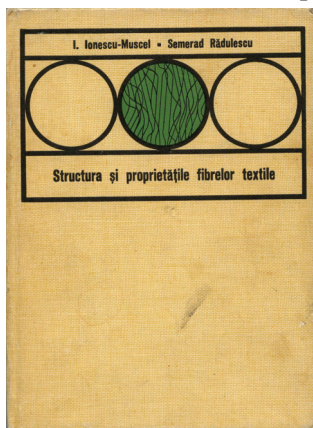
After his turning back to the country, during 1927-1930, he attended the courses of the Industrial Chemistry Faculty of the Bucharest Polytechnics, obtaining the Engineer Diploma in 1930 with no. 179. During the university studies he was perceived as one of the most brilliant students of the faculty, obtaining outstanding results in his professional-scientific activity. As recognition of his merits, on January 1<sup>st</sup> 1931 he was appointed University Assistant at the Textile Industry

University Department within the Faculty of Industrial Chemistry, where he successively experienced all the university hierarchic steps- Lecturer, Reader and Professor. At the same time he also acted as a Rector and then Dean of Textile Higher Studies School in Bucharest, leading the activity of development of the textile engineering higher education in our country.

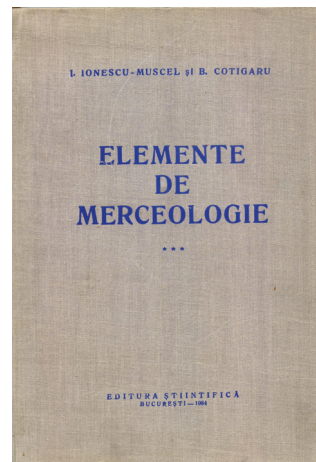
Since 1951 he has been acting as a Professor at the Bucharest Light Industry Institute (being subsequently transferred to Iași), where he performed his activity up to 1958.

As of 1953 and up to the retirement (1972) he acted as a Professor at the Science of Commodities Department from the Institute of Economic Studies and Planning in Bucharest (subsequently ASE), being titular of the disciplines "Textile Products Science of Commodities" and "the Science of Commodities of the Import-Export Products", course taught to the students in Exterior Commerce specialization that afterwards became the Faculty of Exterior Commerce.

Endowed with lots of passion and exigency to his didactic activity, Professor Iosif Ionescu Muscel contributed for several decades, to the training of several specialists in the Science of Commodities, whom he generously transmitted the knowledge gained along his lasting didactic activity and scientific research.



*Volume printed at Technical Publishing House in year 1970, beneficiaries being practitioners from textile industry as well as students from the Faculty of Light Industry*



*The last volume of Science of Commodities Elements series printed at Scientific Publishing House between 1956 and 1964, and considered as a pioneer's work for the young Science of Commodities Department which has just been separated of Technology*

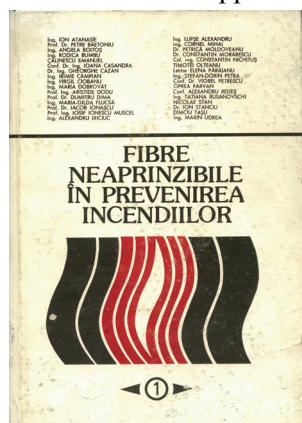
Science of Commodities, whom he generously transmitted the knowledge gained along his lasting didactic activity and scientific research.

The didactic activity of Professor Iosif Ionescu-Muscel involved professionalism, a continuous modernization trend and compliance with the particular requests of the faculties where he used to teach.

His prodigious didactic activity translates into a continuous scientific research for which he trained over 50 doctor's degree candidates, economists and engineers. Good organizer and notable promoter of the scientific research in the Science of Commodities, Prof. Iosif Ionescu-Muscel created around him a real research school which trained and improved the

knowledge of many specialists. The results of his activity resided in finding solutions to more than 100 scientific research themes, many of them making the

object of several valued contracts, some having as object themes of the doctoral thesis coordinated by the distinguished Professor. The remarkable scientific value, as well as the applicative feature of the solutions proposed within the thesis



Printed work edited by Technical Publishing House in year 1980, in three volumes, with a total number of pages of about 1.350, the comprehensive authors team being coordinated by Prof. I. Ionescu-Muscel and Eng. I. Câmpăan, Director of Man-made Fibers Factory of Brăila

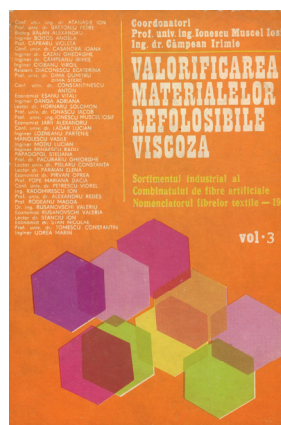
coordinated by Prof. Eng. Iosif Ionescu-Muscel were acknowledged through patent by the State Office for Inventions and Brands or by means of awarding several distinctions and prizes. Among these I would mention the paper "The capitalization of the waste waters out of industrial waters", which was awarded the National Diploma in 1982, and "Proceeding and installation for the superior capitalization of the fibrous materials out of waste waters", which was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> Prize to the National Exhibition of Inventions, Bucharest, 1984.

Endowed with a remarkable availability for work, Prof. Eng. Iosif Ionescu-Muscel capitalized his wide didactic experience and scientific researcher vocation by means of writing several books, university courses, studies and articles published within the specialized literature, to the development of which he had a key contribution.

We don't mean to present the wide scientific work of Prof. Iosif Ionescu-Muscel, which rendered his notoriety – in our country as well as abroad

– as a key figure in the Textile Science of Commodities. We couldn't possibly present it even if we want, due to lacunose information. We shall just present some of the publications meant to outline the remarkable contribution of the Professor to the development of that literature domain in which he performed his activity.

After having graduated the university studies, he wrote manuals and books and published studies within foreign expertise magazines, comprising key information on flax mill, weaving mill, knitting, textile dressing etc. These publications are the very spring of our textile literature, which has afterwards developed through the key contribution of Professor Iosif Ionescu-Muscel and his disciples.



Printed work edited in year 1982, in three volumes, the authors team comprehending teachers and researchers from ASE, personnel from Man-made Fibers Factory of Brăila and research institutes of Ministry of Light Industry and Ministry of Chemical Industry

After 1946, Professor Iosif Ionescu-Muscel took part to the elaboration of the *Romanian Technical Lexicon* (in a big number of volumes) and the *Genealogic Dictionary of the Universal Science and Technique* (4 volumes).

While performing his activity within the Science of Commodities University Department, he elaborated and published (sometimes accompanied by the nearest collaborator, the distinguished professor Beniamin Cotigaru) many treaties, books, university courses, manuals for technical schools etc., many of them representing reference publications for the Textile Science of Commodities field.

Among these, we mention in chronological order: *The Manual of the Textile Engineer* (1959), *Industrial Products Science of Commodities* (2 volumes), *Textile Fibers* (1962), *Science of Commodities Elements* (3 volumes), *Structure and Textile Fibers Properties* (1970), *Reusable Textile Materials* (1970), *Poly Vinyl Chloride Fibers in the Production of Textile Products* (2 volumes, 1972), *Treaty on Science of Commodities – Textile and Leather Products* (2 volumes, 1974), *Textiles and Comfort within Tourist's Sites* (1974), *Textile Anti Fire Protection* (2 volumes, 1975), *The Adhesive Assembly, Thermal Welding and the Use of the Computer in the Textile Industry* (1979), *Textile Fibers* (1979), *The Non-Flammable Fibers in Fires Prevention* (3 volumes, 1980), *The Non-Flammable Textiles in the Hotel Industry* (1982), *The Capitalization of the Reusable Materials Viscose* (3 volumes, 1982), *Textile Fibers at the End of the Millennium* (1990).

We cannot neglect the support given by the Professor to his doctor's degree candidates, whom he helped not only to establish their scientific approach, but also to capitalize the results of the researches performed by means of studies and articles published in the specialized literature or scientific communications presented within manifestations organized in the country and abroad (congresses of The Science of Commodities Association in Messina, Tokyo etc.).



**Prof. Iosif Ionescu-Muscel** surrounded  
by colleagues from Science of  
Commodities Department



**Prof. Iosif Ionescu-Muscel** in 1984, at  
the anniversary of 80 years old



The remarkable contribution that Prof. Eng. Iosif-Muscel brought to the development of science and Science of Commodities education in Romania consecrates him as a key figure in this field. And his numerous disciples, whom he trained all along his activity, have the duty to continue and develop their Professor's work.



**Viorel Petrescu Ph.D.\***

*\*The author of the article solicitously responded to our invitation. Ph.D. Professor Viorel Petrescu has been acting as teacher to the Faculty of Commerce of the Academy of Economic Studies, The Science of Commodities and Quality Management Department, for 45 years. He has been Ph.D. in Economy since 1976, his scientific coordinator being Professor Iosif-Ionescu Muscel himself. Since 1990 he has been leading doctoral studies and has been acting in the administrative area. Therefore, a long period (1992-2008), he was "Pro-Rector of the Faculty of Commerce" at the level of ASE management, the resort that he assumed being of administrative, financial and patrimonial activity, including the coordination of the quality management department. Also, between 1998 and 2002, he was Vice-President, and afterwards, up to 2004, he was president of the National Council of Scholarships Abroad within the Ministry of Education and Research. In the years 1992 and respectively 1995-1996, for several months, he has been Head of the Science of Commodities and Quality Management Department; in both situations, being afterwards elected Pro-Rector of the Academy, he had to give up the position of Head of Department.*

*He wrote 36 books and university courses, numerous contributions referring to the Science of Commodities expertise. Thus, for instance, more recently, in 2005, within ASE Publishing House, Mercur Collection, he published the work The Merchandise Quality Expertise. Professor Viorel Popescu is the author of no less than 45 research valuable contracts, two patents, and four works of expertise. Under these circumstances, in 2001 he was worthily awarded the "Opera Omnia" Diploma of ASE for Research, and in 2004, by means of presidential decree, he was conferred the Order "Meritul pentru Învățământ" (the Merit for Education) in Officer Deg*